All Mine Reflection

This report seems to support dependency theory. They point out that the Republic of Congo has recently been in a bloody civil war and is still recovering from it. It’s corrupt leaders of the time were overthrown, but this report suggests the subsequent power vacuum was filled with inexperienced leaders and negotiators. The report demonstrates that the people in Africa who should benefit from these rich resources are living in tents as opposed to home, given little compensation for their displacement, in addition only 2% of the workforce in the mine is made up of the local populace. This would support dependency theory as the rich nation of America is exploiting the rich natural resources of Africa and aren’t giving enough back to help develop the nation.

To ensure fairness and accountability in these transactions I think the government of the DRC has a responsibility to oversee their natural resource transactions. It should negotiate contracts with mining companies, and ensure they are in the best interests of the country and its people. In addition, for deals this large, you should include international organizations that can remain impartial like the UN and World Bank. Local communities living in mining areas should have a voice in the contracts that affect their lands and livelihoods as well. According to what I’ve seen from the report, the contracts didn’t consider the interests of the Congolese people or nation. The contract as of this report seems very unfair.

If it’s conclusively demonstrated that these contracts were made in bad faith, they should absolutely be nullified. In this report, there are accusations of bribery, corruption, and inequality.

To properly hold them accountable is no small task, and I’m not sure it can be done. They’re a multinational corporation with political ties and big money. You’d need government regulatory bodes like the DRC, UN, World Bank, and congressional support to team and battle these bad faith deals.